

An  
Inaugural Dissertation  
for the  
Degree  
of  
Doctor of Medicine

Submitted to the Examination  
of the

Surgeons and medical Professors  
of the

University of Pennsylvania.

by Chs. Sturdivant - admitted March 10th 1821

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# Amenorrhoea

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This term is derived from the Greek, and signifies an interruption of the menstrual discharges; it is by practical writers divided into retention & excessive meniscum of Latreille, and suppression of the menses; the last division is sometimes subdivided into checked & prevented menstruation. By the former we understand, that the discharge from some cause is retarded beyond the period, when it should make its first appearance, by the latter, that the discharge may have taken place, but has been suppressed or prevented from returning at the usual subsequent periods, from some other cause besides that of pregnancy or lactation. It might here be expected, that I should consider for a moment the nature of this discharge, and the purpose which it fulfils in the animal economy; but this is a task which I most willingly resign, both from the want of talents and inclination, to those who delight in theory, and are fond of exploring the fields of uncertainty. It has long been a problem, why nature has subjected females to this discharge, and a problem, which I do not believe has ever been altogether satisfactorily explained, as numerous as the theories are.



which have been offered on the subject. Mr. Whewell has con-  
 tended to give us a solution of it; his hypothesis although  
 ingenious, has not led us entirely out of the dark on this  
 question. He supposes that it relaxes the irritation of the  
 uterus and mitigates the extreme of sexual desire, thus obli-  
 ging a woman to conform to the laws of morality, and  
 the social compact that are established between us; leaving  
 Mr. Whewell's theory to rest on its own foundation, I shall only  
 add that I believe this discharge to be necessary, by the relaxa-  
 tion of nature to promote health, and in some way to contribute  
 to conception. We reject the hypothesis of this discharge being  
 an hemorrhage from the uterus, produced by a mechanical di-  
 lation of the extremities of the uterine vessels, and suppose  
 to be a peculiar and genuine secretion, the uterus taking on  
 the office of a gland. ~ ~

With these introductory remarks, I shall in as simple and com-  
 mon manner as possible, give a history of the cause, symptoms, and  
 treatment of the different forms of amenorrhoea. I proceed first  
 to speak of retention of the menses. All females do not men-  
 struate at the same period of life, in consequence of a difference of

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of the various

constitution, some arriving at the age of puberty much sooner than  
 others: a different temperature of climate, likewise has considerable  
 influence on regulating the period of the first appearance of this  
 discharge; those inhabiting warm climates being subject to it at  
 a much earlier period of life, than those living under colder  
 itness. In this country from the fourteenth to the sixteenth  
 year, is the time when most females begin to menstruate,  
 but as there are often variations from this rule without any inju-  
 ry to the health of the female, & we cannot call every case of re-  
 tention a disease because a female does not menstruate at a  
 period which is common for most females, unless the situation be  
 accompanied with such choleric symptoms, and disorder in  
 other parts of the system as can be justly attributed to that cause.  
 The retention of the menses seems to be owing to a want of power  
 or in the uterus, or to such deficiency of action, as prevents it from  
 performing its healthy secretory functions; but what it is that  
 produces this weakness and want of action at this time of  
 life in females, appears to be a question involved in some ob-  
 scurity. It is certain that there is a connection between the state  
 of the ovaries and the progress of menstruation, a defective or

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which consists of the former being a stage followed by morbid symptoms in the latter, but whether this connection be necessary, coincident circumstances, or whether they are to be considered as cause and effect, I cannot positively decide. The stomach, and its adjacent Sympliciter viscera seem to exercise great agency over the uterus, since impaired digestion, anorexia, costiveness, and many symptoms of dyspepsia usually accompany or precede this disease.

Symptoms beside those just mentioned in the last paragraph are the following. Languor, debility, to exercise of any kind, and a general aversion to exertion. In the face, and other parts, a brownish yellowish tinge, with pain in the back, loins and hips, and acidity in the stomach. The patient is fatigued, and troubled with palpitations of the heart, on the slightest exertion. The pulse is quick and small, and the anæmia, <sup>anæmia</sup> if you have a rough access to the catalogue of her sufferings. As the disease progresses the rose of health, the bloom of the cheek abandons their empire, and the lips lose their vermilion tint, the eyes are encircled with a livid areola, and the ambrosial fragrance of the breath is exchanged for the most offen-

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see color. The complexion presents sometimes a fuliginous com-  
plexion, and hence the name of green sickness, or chlorosis of  
authors. Adematous swellings, a fixed, erythematous heat, and  
a general clamorosity of the whole system, attend as con-  
sequences of this complaint, and derive from sometimes subse-  
quent. I then conclude the history of its symptoms.

11. Management. There are two indications in the cure of this disease. The first is to restore the general health and tone of the system, then to excite the vessels of the uterus to the use of her normal & healthy contractile functions. The first indication may be satisfied by all those means which impart health and vigor to the system, by tonics, balneation, exercise, and a better abstinence diet. I have before observed that coldness, and much gas in the management often accompanied this disease, & on this account I am of opinion to, under the exhibition of other remedies, of a gentle nature, it will subvert the stomach for these exhibitions, and give the patient efficacy & sustenance. If the system should be tried to be strengthened, the female physician should be in a position to communicate a series of letters to the uterus, it may be a series of letters to the mother.



that Dr. Hamilton on his excellent work, in the use of the  
galvanic current & numerous reports, says, as the result  
of his researches at that city, "the complaint, in general,  
is slight, & we have never either seen, or even met with, much  
more, than the ordinary nervous hyperaesthesia. It has been almost  
impossible to procure the substance in this complaint, with  
a view to its true source, either alone, or combined with  
the lungs & independent of them. My idea is, however, that  
you had almost suspect they would, in very much more need  
of the relation of some true internal, such as the, profusion  
of iron, such, have in the lungs. The following formula seems to  
be a good combination, in those cases

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Journal of the

Todas las brach: geo XV

Dec. 1860

Agrop. Fingit. q.s. M. & Mafas et. divid. in Silul. XXIV

See if there may be taken four or five times a day according to circumstances. Continue, quinine & other bitter tonics are entitled to no small share of confidence in all such diseases.



to be used as a tonic in all cases of debility. It is  
succeeding in all cases of debility, in any case of its use an im-  
mediate in all cases of debility of the stomach. The different prepa-  
rations of iron are probably more entitled to our consideration than  
any of the vegetable tonics iron has always been considered as  
very friendly to the human system, and there is perhaps no  
article of the materia medica that causes the effect in  
iron, however true it may be, but it is more entitled to  
preference. In which preparation of this metal I am to give  
the preference iron is a help to absorbance. The iron is given  
most of us, as it is commonly called. Iron is in fact well  
certain in its operation. It may be given, powder, with a little  
mucilage or syrup, in doses from six to fifteen grains, to  
be repeated, three or four times. It may also be given in form of pills or  
calybrate wine, the latter is more common, and is more  
in cases of debility where the stomach is in a very debile  
and debilitated condition. The calybrate is a valuable in ma-  
ter, in this complaint. It is a good tonic, and is  
with the other tonics, as in the case of the iron, it is  
not to be used. The hæmatine, emulsion, is the last one.





[illegible]

One in thought,

And with her green, and yellow me (m)th - li:

Let the picture in a monument, symbolize grief.

Happy accidents, symbolisms occur, they are to be valued, by their  
other social, tendencies which must not be mentioned here. I am sure

I have been thinking  
 of you very much lately  
 and wondering how you  
 are getting on. I hope  
 you are well and happy.  
 I am still the same old  
 fellow, though a bit older  
 now. I am glad to hear  
 from you and hope you  
 will write soon. Love  
 from your friend,  
 John Doe

is not medicinal, as it is to be abated by a cathartic and  
digestible diet, as the 2<sup>d</sup> Sec. says. I think Milk and vegetables should  
embrace the principal part of the regimen, yet it is not necessary to  
insert in order it is medicinal &c. &c. These remedies now, it is  
shown to be those not commonly prescribed. In the fulfilment  
of the first indication, I now proceed to the second indication  
of cure, viz. to weaken the action of the uterine vessels. Now

the cathartic is necessary, and that class of medicines which  
we call the emmenagogues. That species of exercise which is most  
in vogue is already mentioned in speaking of the first indication  
of cure and all that is to be combined with its beneficial effects,  
now it has a tendency to determine the Blood into the increasing  
action of the arteria and hyperaemic uterus and thereby communicating  
an excitement to the uterus and causing it to move to further  
late. In the same end, it has been suggested to compress the iliac ar-  
teries, but Dr. Haller employed that there have been trials which he has  
seen made were productive of little or no benefit. The use of the  
warm bath however and semicubation may might be going to bed  
may be considered to do good in this complaint. The addition of

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common sort, various & more efficacious. The modes of execution of this  
 remedy may be more intelligible in the same manner as that of ex-  
 amin. I wonder you not what would be the effect of rubbing the  
 body all over with some ointment. And I wonder if recommending oin-  
 tments to the surgeon and the nurse of the hospital would be of im-  
 mense service. They are always of thea, but there is always much  
 or invincible antipathy with most climates to such harsh and dis-  
 agreeable applications and they are so offensive to human modesty, that  
 we shall find few who are disposed to submit to them. If this remedy  
 not of itself, and applied to the disease, must be considered to  
 be offensive and not altogether consistent with the effect of the medicine.  
 In private medicine is every, this is a local stimulant, it is very so called  
 which, in authors occurs in recommending it this time it must rather  
 whenever it can be used with propriety. I thinking from my own expe-  
 rience I can say nothing if this remedy is in use, we should always  
 hesitate to recommend it. But it ~~is~~ <sup>is not</sup> very disagreeable, I am not ac-  
 quainted to count since it comes from very high authorities. But I  
 cannot think it so applicable in the form of ointment as now  
 under consideration, as in the suspension of the means to all the  
 means in use in the existing complaint. We are now called to a just

may I please  
de Sir,  
I am  
very much  
yours  
de Sir,  
I am  
very much  
yours

of these of confidence than some of the various purgatives. It is some-  
 times and gamboge are these most highly recommended. It has been ad-  
 vanced also in favor of these purgatives, but because it is  
 to be given with much caution and is recommended as not even in the  
 most continued, with, barberry or cathartic pills, is it to be  
 given with a view of becoming its specific purgative on the system  
 the most efficient of the various purgatives  
 may be given in combination with gamboge, or the compound also  
 the pill may be given. Purgative is given in many cases  
 the same is recommended. The dose may be given in  
 the morning in much cases and at such intervals as to keep  
 at a steady weakness in the system. Electricity, applied  
 through the system of the uterus but is not so as to act im-  
 mediately on the uterus and has been found at times to be productive  
 of much benefit. Every medical writer observes with a long list  
 of uteri which have been cathartically called emmenagogues  
 but most of these are of an equal nature, and often so much  
 when applied is only described, they are only used when  
 in cases of suppression, their relation. The polygala purga has  
 been of very highly recommended, and is said to be

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in a disease, and, when such susceptibility is established, the  
 whole business comes to be regulated by very high testimony on its  
 own merits, and the physician is obliged to administer a liberal  
 in a little circumscription or system. Thus in the general nervous and  
 the nervous, but at sometimes happens that it is more or less  
 times with the air pulmonary, when this is the case it will be  
 of service to administer an emetic occasionally. The sulphur of zinc  
 would be broken in such a case. The benefit are to be kept down, and  
 in such cases, however, may be given with the sulphur of  
 zinc, and may be given. I know in the case, may be relieved by a  
 is, or some warm stimulating plaster. It ought to be troublesome  
 the spirit will now is a good robust man, and should be kept  
 and be an opiate at bed time. I now proceed to the consideration  
 of the subduplication of the M. 1111.

This I have already observed, is divided into two parts, and check-  
 ed, and checked, but as the physician has to do with the  
 we shall take the case of the first part, and we shall take the  
 body the same. We shall treat of these both under the more gen-  
 eral term of subduplication. What is meant by the first part of the



and is attended, not only with a loss of the power of action of  
 this fluid, after it has once taken place, is not to be considered  
 a case of suppuration, or a suppuration of the vaginal or some vessels.  
 we have, however, the same kind of suppuration, and the same kind of  
 and being attended with a suppuration of the os sacrum, and some  
 other parts, and sometimes suppurates the mind, inactivity of the body,  
 and of these cases is not a suppuration of the nervous system, but  
 a case of mind and other sedations. It is not long connected with the  
 stomach in the stomach, in culture and inflammatory affections a  
 hard and violent pain is in the lower back and in the loins, the  
 heat follows from colic, from hypochondria and dyspepsia, and from  
 various discharges from the stomach, lungs and other parts of  
 the body. The treatment is in a great many respects, sometimes  
 in that in children it is not sometimes here may be violent. The  
 same way as the like symptoms in relation of the menses, this  
 difference however obtains that in children, loins and other parts  
 are not to be of more or less numerous generally numerous but  
 the more so this happens in suppression of the menses. When there  
 is a heat and red heat, with much excitement on the sys-  
 tem, evacuation is a remedy from which we are to derive both much

[illegible]

exhibit. It may be by the warm bath, general or local. The result  
 will be still more beneficial. To increase the relaxing power of  
 these remedies, and to allay pain and irritation, in short every in-  
 dication of morbid action, the latter method would seem  
 preferable in many cases. If suppression of the menses be caused  
 by some chronic disease as consumption, &c. or by an attempt  
 to retain the discharge, more especially by stimulating measures  
 will seldom fail to do much mischief. The removal of a obstruction  
 will not only restore the nature the system to be pursued. If suppression  
 is as in the case of this complaint we are to keep our attention  
 fixed to the state of the bowels. This is the first & most important  
 consideration. In the treatment of this disease, as in many  
 others, the purgative medicines in this case. It is a rule  
 upon which, trials and better are indicated. In proceeding with  
 the above mentioned medicines, emmenagogues shall fully and just-  
 ly employ a sound much of our confidence. I shall not here men-  
 tion the emmenagogues mentioned by different writers on the  
*Materia medica*, but merely notice some of those of the most  
 approved efficacy. The kinds of purgatives are required, the most ex-  
 tensive confidence of an eminent practitioner of this class, I shall

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to Dr. Wier) he says that when given in cases of ecclesiastic  
 subjugation and, possessed in, for a sufficient length of time in  
 he has never seen it, <sup>being</sup> on a discharge. The *Triggle* Lunge has  
 of late years been added to the list of emmenagogues. Dr. Boerhaave  
 the first who proclaimed its just, however, remarkable, and  
 its good qualities have since been corroborated, and, promulgated  
 by the professors of the botanical and medical school of Leyden, and  
 in the University of Amsterdam it is supposed to be very desir-  
 ous, useful, when taken with, being efficacious in the uterus. It is  
 recommended to be given in decoction or powder, the decoction is  
 generally preferred. When its exhibition the system is to be attended  
 to, and, too much excitement or activity, is to be avoided by the  
 proper means. The purgatives, and cathartics have  
 strong testimony in their favour, and they would be of some  
 good in skillful hands. The *helleborus* was introduced into  
 practice by Boerhaave as an emmenagogue, who speaks unequivocally  
 of its discharge effects, and subsequent experience with this ac-  
 tion in the hands of other practitioners confirm much of what  
 he has said of it, it is therefore worthy of a trial.

Many medicines acting climacterically have been collected in this disease.

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as the new one had small seeds, vegetable bacteria. The others were  
large, the tubercles in the center and some of which we might  
have occasionally missed salutary results.  
Parasitism in some forms of bacteria with a single individual in the  
medium is a difficult and somewhat uncertain thing to handle in any case  
of a microorganism. This comes in the course of the development when the  
formation of a young organism in the culture medium is common  
and a single individual is present. In some cases it is found forming  
and is always a source of the greatest inconvenience and distress  
to the student. When there is no unusual action on the part of  
the organism, it is a necessary remedy. It is a necessary remedy  
to the system of the device. It is a necessary remedy, and some  
times some has already mentioned will be found to give relief  
in a time. It is true that the second cornucopia has been seen  
to display some of its greatest powers. Whether the statements made  
now about it be true rest on the greatest authority than my own.  
But it has that cambium comes to us embodied by the most  
unstable and easily, it is convenient to use these in some of  
the cambium of the plant. Paramecium has been in the cambium of  
cambium with cambium may be said to be the maximum of

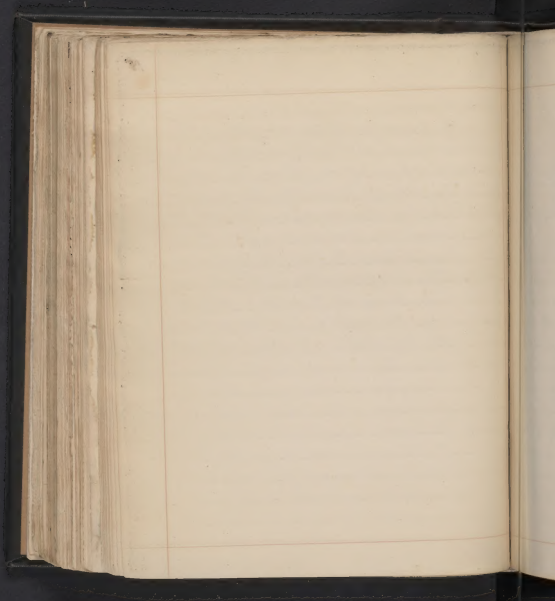
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domen", the great and beautiful gift of heaven.

It is worthy of remembrance that, remains devoted to this we should carefully avoid all the exciting causes, cold, fear, indignity, hypocrisies, impropriety, and coarseness. I will conclude the remarks on the different causes & counteract the movement, and then I will add that with this energy of no violence, a real harmonious in our part, & that the serenity of our directions in the part of the female, we may generally obtain a successful victory over this great enemy of justice. I wish you see its united triumph, raise our banner from the languishing bed of sickness, and restore us to health, beauty and the relations of friends and relations -









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